



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S): Masanori Iwasaki

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GROUP ART UNIT:

2613

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EXAMINER:

Richard J. Lee

INVENTION: "THREE-DIMENSIONAL IMAGE-CAPTURING APPARATUS"

RECEIVED

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

OCT 23 2002

Technology Center 2600

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT "C" ACCOMPANYING RCE REQUEST

S I R:

This Preliminary Amendment "C" accompanies an RCE Request and responds to the Advisory Action of September 11, 2002. Applicant respectfully notes that an Amendment "B" After Final was entered in response to the Final Office Action of May 13, 2002. Please enter this Preliminary Amendment "C" prior to consideration of the RCE Request, and reconsider the application in view of the amendment and remarks presented below.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 2, and 7 as follows:

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1. (Twice Amended) A three-dimensional image-capturing apparatus comprising:
a single image-capturing device having a plurality of image capturing regions; and
a plurality of optical systems for forming images of a subject in the image-capturing regions, each one of the optical systems corresponding to a different one of the image-capturing regions, the optical systems including a plurality of reflection means for reflecting rays from said subject a number of times, and at least a lens provided to be closer to said single image-capturing device than the closest reflection means to said subject among the reflection means;

wherein the reflection means and the lenses of the optical systems are used to form, in the corresponding image-capturing regions, separate images of said subject which are captured from different viewpoints having a distance therebetween.